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Scrapie Identification Information For Producers

(15 November 2006)—The interstate identification rule is a federal requirement and official identification can not be removed legally. Official identification includes the flock ID and individual production number. The flock ID number is the number that must appear on producers' tags and/or tattoos and records/paperwork (including certificates of veterinary inspection). BOAH will provide/approve the Flock ID number for each site. In most cases, this number includes the state postal code and county number.

- Under Indiana guidelines, recognized identification methods are the same for sheep and goats. Accepted methods include: Federal tags (includes federal-approved custom tags purchased by the owner), tattoos and microchips (where recognized by a registry).
- Tattoos must be applied legible to the ear, tail or flank in their entirety, including a unique, individual animal number.
- Registry tattoos may be used as a Flock ID only with approval of BOAH. Whenever possible BOAH will incorporate the registry number into the Flock ID.
- "In-and-out" or seasonal flocks, in which **no birthing** takes place, are not required to have a flock identification number. The owners may choose to obtain federal tags or have their sheep or goats identified by a veterinarian or extension educator for exhibit/sale. (This exception includes 4-Hers who only have animals for 4-H, then sell them after the season. These individuals' lambs or goats should have a tag or tattoo upon purchase.)
- Indiana law requires wethers have identification for exhibition. However, they do not have to have the official federal identification unless 18 months of age or older. In-tact males and females must have official federal identification regardless of age.
- Wethers intended to be used for exhibition or sale must be identified by any type of tag or tattoo. Federal identification tag or tattoo (approved) is required for wethers older than 18 months of age.

*See the reverse side for further details. Questions regarding the scrapie program may be directed to the BOAH Ruminant Division at 877/747-3038 ext. 336.

Registered Sheep or Goats: Select one of these identification options:

1. Federal Tag:

Step 1-Call BOAH

Step 2-Obtain a Flock ID number

Step 3-Order tags which include the flock ID and production numbers for each individual animal

Step 4-Apply tags according to Indiana guidelines

2. Microchip: Where recognized by registry

Step 1-Call BOAH

Step 2-Request approval to use electronic identification for official ID

Step 3-Verify that the electronic identifier sequence is unique with BOAH's database

Step 4-Obtain a Flock ID number*

Step 5-Microchip registered animals only

Step 6-Provide reader device to verify identity at any inspection/sale along with registration papers.

3. Tattoo:

Step 1-Call BOAH

Step 2-Request approval to use registry tattoo for official ID

Step 3-Verify registry tattoo number is unique within BOAH's database

Step 4-Obtain Flock ID number*

Step 5-Tattoo legibly all registered animals, with approved number and a unique, individual animal number. (Unregistered members of a flock must bear the Flock ID in its entirety with the animal's individual ID.)

Non-Registered Sheep or Goats: Select of these identification options:

1. Federal Tag:

Step 1-Call BOAH

Step 2-Obtain Flock ID number

Step 3-Order tags

Step 4-Apply tags according to Indiana guidelines

2. Tattoo:

Step 1-Call BOAH

Step 2-Obtain Flock ID number

Step 3-Apply legibly (ear, tail and flank are acceptable) the Flock ID tattoo along with unique, individual animal number.

*If the tattoo/electronic ID sequence is short enough, it can be incorporated into the Flock ID number, with BOAH approval. If the sequence has too many characters, or another flock owner has already registered that sequence, another Flock ID will be assigned.



For more information, contact:
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